

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6252

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

RUFHRO 1090

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, EEC, RO

SUBJ: SOAMES VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 289; (B) ECBRUSSELS 153

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1. SUMMARY. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATION OF SOAMES' AIDES,

ROMANIANS INDICATED THEY NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR TRADE AGREEMENT. SOAMES AND EC MISSION HERE ARE UNCLEAR WHY GOR HAS BEEN PUSHING INVITATION RELATIVELY SOON AFTER KLEIN'S VISIT WHEN ALL IT HAD TO OFFER WAS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE TEXTILE AGREEMENT. LOCAL EC SPECULATION SUGGESTS THAT GOR MAY HAVE UTILIZED SOAMES' VISIT AS PART OF ITS PRE-CEMA SUMMIT JOCKEYING. END SUMMARY.

2. AUTHORITATIVE READING ON SOAMES-GOR DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS WE LIKELY TO HAVE IN BUCHAREST WILL AWAIT BRIEFING BY DUTCH AMBASSADOR. FROM SEVERAL EC AND ROMANIAN SOURCES WE HAVE GATHERED FEW INTERESTING IMPRESSIONS AND SIDELIGHTS ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS.

3. ROMANIAN-EC TRADE AGREEMENT. WHILE CEAUSESCU REAFFIRMED BASIC GOR POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH EC (ALONG LINES OF REFTEL A), MESSAGE THAT HE AND DPTY PM PATAN CONVEYED TO SOAMES WAS THAT ROMANIA WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD ON TRADE AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER CEMA SUMMIT. TIMING OF LATTER APPEARED TO HAVE SLIPPED UNTIL AFTER CPSU CONGRESS, BUT THIS WAS NOT EXPLICIT. GOR LEADERS OFFERED NO EXPLANATION WHY POST-SUMMIT TIMING WOULD BE MORE PROPITIOUS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME INSUBSTANTIAL HINTS THAT ROMANIA WAS NOT RPT NOT ONLY CEMA PARTNER DESIRING DIRECT RELATIONS WITH EC. SOME INSIGHT INTO ROMANIAN MOTIVATION OFFERED TO DCM BY FORMER ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S., BRUCAN WHO STATED GOR HAD BACKED OFF BECAUSE "COSTS WOULD BE TOO HIGH TO DO ANYTHING NOW" IN LIGHT OF "PRESSURES FROM OUR NEIGHBORS".

4. TEXTILE. APPARENTLY ROMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF EC OFFER TO NEGOTIATE TEXTILE AGREEMENT WAS CONVEYED CASUALLY TO SOAMES BY MFT DIRECTOR DUMITRESCU EN ROUTE TO APPOINTMENT. IN HIS BRIEFING OF EC AMBASSADORS, SOAMES DISCOUNTED THIS MOVE AS BEING IN CONTEXT OF GATT RELATIONS RATHER THAN EC-ROMANIAN AFFAIRS, WHICH PRESUMABLY EXPLAINS COMMENT OF EC SPOKESMAN (REFTEL A).

5. QRS AND OTHER TRADE RESTRICTIONS. FROM SECOND-HAND REPORT WE GATHER THAT SOAMES MADE REFERENCE IN HIS FORMAL ADDRESS TO ALLEGED ABSENCE OF QR'S OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON ROMANIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPORTS TO EC. THIS COMMENT PROVOKED AUDIBLE EXPRESSION OF DISAGREEMENT ON PART OF MFT DIRECTOR DUMITRESCU, WHO REPORTEDLY PRODUCED LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 10 ALLEGED RESTRICTIONS WHICH HE PASSED TO GERMAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR.

6. COMMENT. SOAMES WAS APPARENTLY PUZZLED, AS ARE EC MISSIONS HERE, WHY GOR WOULD PUSH INVITATION TO HIM AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN THEY HAD ESSENTIALLY NOTHING NEW TO SAY ON

OVERRIDING ISSUE OF TRADE AGREEMENT. ONE EC SOURCE SPECULATED THAT VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED BY GOR AS SIGNAL TO MOSCOW AND OTHER EC CAPITALS THAT ROMANIA CAN INITIATE ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC AT ANY TIME. IF MOTIVATION WAS IN FACT TO PIQUE CURIOSITY OF ROMANIA'S CEMA PARTNERS, PLOY CERTAINLY SUCCEEDED SINCE RESIDENT EE REPS ARE ENGAGED IN ENERGETIC EFFORT TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE ABOUT VISIT. STRONG INTEREST IN CONFIRMING THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT ROMANIANS INDEED HAD INITIATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOAMES WAS CONVEYED TO DCM BY SOVIET COUNSELOR REMOV IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 14.

7. END RESULT OF GOR HESITANCY COULD, ACCORDING TO EC SOURCE, BE COSTLY FROM ROMANIAN STANDPOINT. SHOULD CEMA SUMMIT PRODUCE LOOSE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT PERMITTING MEMBER STATES TO REACH THEIR OWN BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH COMMISSION, GOR MAY WELL FIND ITSELF AS MERELY ONE OF NATIONS IN QUEUE. IN THAT EVENT, GOR WILL HAVE WON FOR THEMSELVES (AND OTHERS) LATITUDE THEY SOUGHT BUT AT PRICE OF LOSING SPECIAL ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO COUNTRY WHICH BREAKS RANKS FIRST. ON THE OTHER HAND, BY NOT JUMPING THE GUN, ROMANIA WILL AVOID MORE ONUS AS CEMA'S BLACK SHEEP AND STAY EVEN FOR THE MOMENT WITH ANY SKITTISH ALLIES IT MAY HAVE PICKED UP IN CEMA ON THIS ISSUE.
BARNES

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